



United States Senator

MARY L. LANDRIEU  
*Louisiana*

## The 2009 Budget: *By the Numbers*

**As many as 145,000<sup>†</sup>**

Louisiana Road Home rebuilding grant recipients could be relieved of onerous tax penalties if they accepted casualty loss deductions on their post-hurricane tax returns. A second piece of legislation must be passed to implement the tax relief, but Senator Landrieu has secured a commitment from Senate leaders to make it a priority after the Easter recess.

**885,000**

Louisiana families stand to benefit from a first-of-its-kind \$500 **Standard Deduction**\*\* for property taxes. The bill will allow property owners who don't itemize on their federal tax returns to be eligible for the deduction.

**500,000**

Louisiana families stand to benefit from the permanent extension of the **Marriage Penalty Relief**.\*\*

**362,545**

Louisiana families will receive a tax break from the permanent extension of the **Child Tax Credit**. \*

**110,000**

Louisiana households would be spared from the **Alternative Minimum Tax**.\*\*

**78,441**

Louisiana families will benefit from the permanent extension of the **Dependent Care Tax Credit**.\*

**752**

Louisiana families took the **Adoption Tax Credit** \* in 2005. The bill permanently extends this provision so that state residents can take advantage of it in the future.

**Only about 150<sup>††</sup>**

Louisiana estates would face any estate taxes under this budget. It eliminates an upcoming estate tax hike and freezes the tax at a \$3.5 million exemption for individuals (\$7 million for couples) and a 45 percent tax rate for estates above these levels. Senator Landrieu offered an amendment which would have further reduced the tax rate to 35 percent and exempted all individuals with estates of less than \$5 million (or for couples, less than \$10 million). The Landrieu proposal was fully paid for by closing loopholes protecting tax cheats, leading Senate Republicans to block the measure and advocate instead for passing on the \$250 billion cost to middle-class taxpayers by increasing the national debt.

\*Data compiled by Internal Revenue Service. \*\*Data compiled by Congressional Research Service. †LRA estimate of Road Home grant applicants

††Estimate extrapolated from 2006 IRS data in which 198 Louisiana families reported estates of more than \$2 million.